

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

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National Weather Summary October 19 - 25, 2008

Highlights: A slow-moving storm produced widespread showers from the **northern and central Plains to the East Coast**. In addition, wind-driven snow briefly blanketed parts of the **central Plains**. The precipitation aided winter grains but slowed or temporarily halted harvest activities. Showers were especially beneficial for newly planted or emerging winter wheat in drought-affected areas of the **Ohio Valley** and the **Southeast**. However, scattered locations from **western Florida to coastal South Carolina** experienced local flooding due to late-week rainfall totals in excess of 4 inches. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather promoted autumn fieldwork in **Texas** and throughout the **West**. Mid- to late-week warmth accompanied the dryness, allowing **Northwestern** winter grain planting to near completion. However, dry conditions remained a concern with respect to **Northwestern** wheat establishment. Weekly temperatures ranged from more than 5 degrees F below normal across much of the **South** and **East** to slightly above normal in **California** and the **Desert Southwest**. On October 23-24, freezes struck as far south as the **southern High Plains**, helping to defoliate mature cotton but threatening harm to the portion of the crop on which bolls had not yet begun to open.

Early in the week, cold weather prevailed in the **Northeast**, where daily-record lows dipped to 21 degrees F at both **Massena, NY** (on October 19), and **Bangor, ME** (on October 20). A second surge of cold weather peaked across **New England** on October 23, when daily-record lows in **Maine** included 14 degrees F in **Allagash**, 17 degrees F in **Fort Kent**, and 20 degrees F in **Caribou**. Between the cold snaps, as much as 2 to 6 inches of snow fell across **northern Maine**, with **Fort Kent** noting 4.0 inches on October 21-22. Meanwhile, a developing storm across the **nation's mid-section** brought another round of heavy precipitation. As a result, October precipitation records were broken in locations such as **Hastings, NE** (6.16 inches; previously, 4.76 inches in 2007), and **Dodge City, KS** (5.00 inches; previously, 4.94 inches in 1997). In **Lincoln, IL**, the year-to-date precipitation through October 25 climbed to 50.21 inches, second only to a 50.84-inch annual total in 1927. Specific daily-record totals for October 22 associated with the storm included 3.70 inches in **Houston, TX**; 2.31 inches in **Kearney, NE**; and 2.25 inches in **Sioux City, IA**. Official snowfall totals for October 23 included 2.0 inches (along with a north-northwesterly wind gust to 56 m.p.h.) in **Goodland, KS**, and 1.1 inches in **North Platte, NE**. A separate area of heavy precipitation affected **southern Florida**, dumping 7.30 inches of rain in **Key West** on October 22. That total represented **Key West's** 11th-wettest day during its 138-year period of record.

Cold air trailed the storm system into the **Northwest**, the **Plains**, and eventually much of the remainder of the U.S. By October 22, daily-record lows dipped to 17 degrees F in **Idaho Falls, ID**, and 14 degrees F at the **Bryce Canyon Airport in Utah**. The following day, records for October 23 fell to 4 degrees F in **Alamosa, CO**, and 30 degrees F in **San Angelo, TX**. Elsewhere in Texas, **Lubbock's** first freeze (31 degrees F on October 23) occurred 8 days earlier than the normal first autumn freeze date of October 31. On October 24, the first hard freeze--a temperature of 28 degrees F or lower--of the season occurred in locations such as **Guymon, OK** (25 degrees F), and **Amarillo, TX** (27 degrees F). Farther east, the week ended on a wet, windy note. Daily-record rainfall totals for October 24 reached 6.57 inches in **Charleston, SC**, and 3.61 inches in **Savannah, GA**. Previously, **Charleston's** wettest October day had occurred on October 11, 1990, when 4.48 inches fell. By October 25, daily-record totals included 3.35 inches in **Mt. Pocono, PA**, and 2.06 inches in **Albany, NY**, while wind gusts were clocked to 62 m.p.h. in both **Milton (Blue Hill Observatory), MA**, and **Wrightsville Beach, NC**.

Very cold weather persisted across the **Alaskan mainland**, where weekly temperatures averaged at least 5 to 15 degrees F below normal. Among several daily-record lows was **McGrath's** reading of -13 degrees F on October 22. Three days later, the week ended with lows of -40 degrees F at **Chandalar Lake** and -25 degrees F at **Tok**. Meanwhile, very heavy precipitation fell across **southeastern Alaska**, where weekly totals reached 11.67 inches in **Pelican**, 6.19 inches in **Yakutat**, and 6.08 inches on **Annette Island**. Through October 25, month-to-date totals climbed to 35.51 inches in **Pelican** and 24.50 inches (124 percent of normal) in **Yakutat**. High winds accompanied the

storminess, with south-southeasterly gusts clocked to 69 m.p.h. (on October 19) on **Annette Island** and 56 m.p.h. (on October 23) in **Juneau**. Rain changed to snow toward week's end in much of **southeastern Alaska**, where October 24-25 snowfall totaled 3.1 inches in **Juneau** and 2.2 inches in **Yakutat**. Snow also blanketed parts of **interior Alaska**, where **Fairbanks'** weekly sum of 4.5 inches boosted its October 1-25 total to 12.0 inches. Farther south, mostly light showers provided little or no drought relief in **Hawaii**. Through October 25, year-to-date rainfall totals stood at 3.76 inches (28 percent of normal) in **Kahului, Maui**, and 4.08 inches (32 percent) in **Honolulu, Oahu**. Late in the week, some heavier showers in windward sections of **Oahu** resulted in a 48-hour (October 24-26) rainfall total of 5.38 inches at the **Oahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge**. Meanwhile on the **Big Island**, **Hilo** posted daily-record lows of 65 and 64 degrees F on October 21 and 23, respectively.

*National Weather Summary provided by USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board.
For more information, call (202) 720-2397.*

National Agricultural Summary
October 20 – 26, 2008

Corn: Areas of the western and central Corn Belt received patchy rainfall amounting of up to 5 inches in isolated portions of Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. Temperatures across the region ranged between 45 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Ninety-six percent of the corn crop was mature, 4 points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. Nebraska acreage was the furthest behind, lagging 13 points behind the average with 87 percent mature. The crop was within 6 points of full development elsewhere. Producers had harvested 39 percent of the crop, 31 points behind last year and 27 points behind the 5-year average. Producers in the Dakotas had harvested the least of their planted acreage, with 4 and 16 percent of the crop harvested in North Dakota and South Dakota, respectively. Harvest was also falling well behind in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. Condition of the corn crop improved 2 points from last week, reaching 64 percent good to excellent.

Soybeans: Average temperatures in soybean-growing areas ranged from as low as 35 degrees in the Dakotas to as warm as 60 degrees along the Mississippi River. Up to 2 inches of rainfall were received over areas along the Mississippi River, in southeast South Dakota, and over much of Illinois. Producers had harvested 76 percent of the soybean acreage, 5 points behind last year, and 7 points behind the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: In the winter wheat growing areas, the majority of the rain fell over Kansas and Nebraska, reaching up to 5 inches in isolated areas, though light scattered showers fell over areas to the south into the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles. Planting of winter wheat was complete on 84 percent of the acreage, 2 points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Major planting activity was evident in Illinois, Indiana, and Oregon, where 15 percent or more of the crop was planted during the week. Producers completed seeding acreage in Colorado and Ohio. Producers in Arkansas and Missouri were planting their acreage 16 and 20 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty-nine percent of the crop had emerged, 3 points ahead of last year, but the same as the 5-year average. The winter wheat crop was rated 65 percent good to excellent.

Cotton: Ninety-two percent of the cotton acreage had open bolls, 3 points behind last year, and 1 point behind the 5-year average. Producers harvested 40 percent of the crop, 7 points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. In California and Mississippi, harvest lagged 22 and 20 points behind the average, respectively. Cotton condition was 48 percent good to excellent, unchanged from the previous week.

Sorghum: Eighty-three percent of the sorghum crop was mature, 14 points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. Major development occurred in New Mexico and Oklahoma, where 29 percent of the crop reached maturity during the week. Producers harvested 49 percent of the crop, 26 points behind last year and 16 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was at or behind the 5-year average in all States, and was nearly a month behind in South Dakota, with major delays evident in many of the sorghum-producing States. Condition of the sorghum was rated 56 percent good to excellent, unchanged from the previous week's rating.

Rice: Ninety-five percent of the rice crop was harvested, 1 point ahead of last year, but 1 point behind the 5-year average. Harvest was complete in Louisiana and Texas. Harvest was 7 points ahead of the average pace in California, but was at or behind elsewhere.

Peanuts: Peanut producers had harvested 66 percent of the acreage, 7 points ahead of last year's harvest pace, but 1 point behind the 5-year average. Harvest was very active in all States, with between 10 and 23 percent of the crop being harvested during the week.

Other Crops: Sugarbeet producers harvested three-fourths of the acreage, 6 points behind last year, and 9 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest in Minnesota and North Dakota was most advanced, while major activity during the week occurred in Idaho and Michigan.

Twenty-two percent of the sunflower acreage was harvested, 25 points behind last year and 31 points behind the 5-year average. Other than in Colorado, where harvest was 1 point ahead of the 5-year average, harvest was more than 30 points behind the average.

**Corn: Percent Mature,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	99	97	100	100
IL	98	98	100	100
IN	98	93	100	99
IA	96	92	100	98
KS	100	96	100	100
KY	100	100	100	100
MI	100	96	100	98
MN	99	95	100	100
MO	96	94	100	100
NE	87	83	100	100
NC	100	100	100	100
ND	94	89	100	93
OH	100	89	99	98
PA	95	94	95	95
SD	94	92	100	100
TN	100	100	100	100
TX	99	96	100	100
WI	95	91	100	97
18 Sts	96	93	100	99

¹ These 18 States planted 91% of last year's corn acreage.

**Corn: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	61	45	63	51
IL	46	32	94	85
IN	59	41	78	63
IA	20	13	57	63
KS	60	52	89	87
KY	93	85	98	93
MI	35	24	47	41
MN	30	19	67	64
MO	51	48	87	88
NE	21	18	58	56
NC	95	92	99	98
ND	4	3	51	51
OH	55	37	54	43
PA	58	44	50	55
SD	16	14	47	50
TN	98	95	100	99
TX	78	77	96	95
WI	28	17	50	43
18 Sts	39	29	70	66

¹ These 18 States harvested 93% of last year's corn acreage.

**Sunflower: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	62	51	73	61
KS	18	12	61	51
ND	21	10	45	52
SD	16	10	38	53
4 Sts	22	13	47	53

¹ These 4 States harvested 86% of last year's sunflower acreage.

**Sugarbeets: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
ID	48	19	69	62
MI	41	19	34	48
MN	88	80	92	96
ND	89	77	97	97
4 Sts	75	61	81	84

¹ These 4 States harvested 84% of last year's sugarbeets acreage.

**Soybeans: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	60	44	69	71
IL	76	63	94	89
IN	85	74	88	83
IA	87	80	85	94
KS	60	53	64	68
KY	65	48	72	62
LA	95	89	95	92
MI	88	74	73	74
MN	92	83	91	95
MS	88	85	94	96
MO	38	27	66	65
NE	82	74	73	89
NC	10	8	18	15
ND	77	70	89	93
OH	88	81	90	78
SD	83	76	80	92
TN	62	46	67	61
WI	85	63	65	77
18 Sts	76	67	81	83

¹ These 18 States harvested 95% of last year's soybean acreage.

**Winter Wheat: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	32	18	43	48
CA	20	16	26	19
CO	100	99	100	100
ID	91	88	96	97
IL	78	52	95	84
IN	87	70	91	85
KS	83	81	89	92
MI	92	85	93	90
MO	43	28	62	63
MT	99	96	98	98
NE	98	96	100	99
NC	23	18	14	25
OH	100	90	98	85
OK	86	82	82	89
OR	86	67	84	81
SD	96	93	100	100
TX	81	77	78	81
WA	94	87	97	98
18 Sts	84	79	86	88

¹ These 18 States planted 90% of last year's winter wheat acreage.

**Winter Wheat: Percent Emerged,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	16	8	25	27
CA	5	2	7	8
CO	95	87	90	93
ID	50	41	64	60
IL	40	22	70	56
IN	59	31	75	55
KS	73	67	68	73
MI	59	41	74	62
MO	23	12	41	40
MT	90	71	81	76
NE	91	86	95	94
NC	7	6	4	10
OH	72	47	85	58
OK	74	64	59	73
OR	36	10	51	49
SD	82	71	90	85
TX	66	59	52	60
WA	70	62	83	80
18 Sts	69	60	66	69

¹ These 18 States planted 90% of last year's winter wheat acreage.

**Cotton: Percent Bolls Opening,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	99	96	99	98
AZ	100	100	100	100
AR	100	100	100	99
CA	99	87	98	97
GA	98	95	94	96
KS	95	85	94	82
LA	100	100	100	100
MS	99	98	100	100
MO	100	100	100	98
NC	100	98	100	99
OK	97	96	97	97
SC	98	95	100	95
TN	100	99	100	99
TX	83	78	90	87
VA	100	98	100	98
15 Sts	92	88	95	93

¹ These 15 States planted 99% of last year's cotton acreage.

**Cotton: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	57	39	66	54
AZ	41	32	42	37
AR	73	54	83	73
CA	20	4	44	42
GA	35	26	28	41
KS	0	0	7	8
LA	93	85	86	90
MS	68	57	89	88
MO	77	53	89	66
NC	41	27	63	46
OK	21	13	22	32
SC	33	24	54	41
TN	76	59	82	61
TX	22	21	26	29
VA	37	24	72	46
15 Sts	40	32	47	45

¹ These 15 States harvested 99% of last year's cotton acreage.

**Rice: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	93	86	97	98
CA	93	89	79	86
LA	100	99	100	100
MS	98	92	100	100
MO	94	86	99	97
TX	100	100	100	100
6 Sts	95	90	94	96

¹ These 6 States harvested 100% of last year's rice acreage.

**Sorghum: Percent Mature,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	100	100	100	100
CO	99	95	100	92
IL	90	83	100	99
KS	80	70	96	90
LA	100	100	100	100
MO	84	80	94	97
NE	71	63	100	99
NM	59	30	57	54
OK	71	42	83	82
SD	93	79	100	100
TX	85	81	100	88
11 Sts	83	76	97	90

¹ These 11 States planted 95% of last year's sorghum acreage.

**Sorghum: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	100	99	100	100
CO	47	39	52	39
IL	39	29	95	76
KS	26	21	59	53
LA	100	100	100	100
MO	45	40	75	76
NE	12	8	49	56
NM	4	2	48	18
OK	29	27	55	52
SD	25	16	78	78
TX	73	72	93	74
11 Sts	49	46	75	65

¹ These 11 States harvested 96% of last year's sorghum acreage.

**Peanuts: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2003- 2007 Avg.
	Oct 26, 2008	Oct 19, 2008	Oct 26, 2007	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	61	45	52	69
FL	83	73	77	85
GA	70	56	54	70
NC	84	61	86	82
OK	42	29	55	51
SC	76	63	80	74
TX	42	31	45	39
VA	57	38	79	70
8 Sts	66	52	59	67

¹ These 8 States harvested 98% of last year's peanut acreage.

**Corn: Crop Condition by Percent,
Selected States,
Week Ending Oct 26, 2008**

State	VP	P	F	G	EX
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	4	11	33	28	24
IL	1	4	23	52	20
IN	4	11	26	41	18
IA	3	8	25	46	18
KS	1	8	31	47	13
KY	1	11	31	35	22
MI	3	10	29	42	16
MN	4	8	19	52	17
MO	4	12	35	39	10
NE	2	4	18	53	23
NC	21	26	33	18	2
ND	2	6	22	54	16
OH	7	20	35	31	7
PA	0	10	23	50	17
SD	2	3	17	55	23
TN	3	15	34	42	6
TX	16	16	26	38	4
WI	5	10	28	47	10
18 Sts	3	8	25	47	17
Prev Wk	4	9	25	47	15
Prev Yr	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

**Cotton: Crop Condition by Percent,
Selected States,
Week Ending Oct 26, 2008**

State	VP	P	F	G	EX
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	2	10	37	44	7
AZ	0	1	18	62	19
AR	2	10	31	42	15
CA	0	0	5	65	30
GA	5	12	46	30	7
KS	10	10	25	45	10
LA	23	35	30	12	0
MS	8	11	25	46	10
MO	3	6	26	55	10
NC	2	11	33	45	9
OK	4	15	40	30	11
SC	5	12	39	40	4
TN	1	7	30	53	9
TX	11	16	33	31	9
VA	0	15	40	39	6
15 Sts	7	13	32	38	10
Prev Wk	7	13	32	38	10
Prev Yr	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

**Sorghum: Crop Condition by Percent,
Selected States,
Week Ending Oct 26, 2008**

State	VP	P	F	G	EX
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	1	9	43	35	12
CO	11	27	34	24	4
IL	0	2	10	62	26
KS	1	5	27	56	11
LA	0	11	44	42	3
MO	1	5	39	47	8
NE	1	4	19	55	21
NM	0	29	34	36	1
OK	2	14	27	54	3
SD	2	4	24	55	15
TX	5	14	36	40	5
11 Sts	3	10	31	47	9
Prev Wk	3	10	31	47	9
Prev Yr	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

**Winter Wheat: Crop Condition
by Percent, Selected States
Week Ending Oct 26, 2008**

State	VP	P	F	G	EX
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	0	0	31	62	7
CA	0	0	10	78	12
CO	0	1	22	45	32
ID	0	0	1	87	12
IL	0	0	19	74	7
IN	1	5	28	56	10
KS	1	4	23	61	11
MI	1	1	57	29	12
MO	0	2	45	51	2
MT	1	3	42	49	5
NE	0	0	21	69	10
NC	0	0	12	88	0
OH	0	5	30	50	15
OK	1	2	29	53	15
OR	0	21	59	19	1
SD	0	4	35	49	12
TX	1	10	37	38	14
WA	0	0	50	50	0
18 Sts	1	4	30	53	12
Prev Wk	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Prev Yr	2	10	33	47	8

VP-Very Poor, P-Poor, F-Fair, G-Good, EX-Excellent.

National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2007 planted acres.

**Pasture and Range: Crop Condition by Percent,
Selected States,
Week Ending Oct 26, 2008**

State	VP	P	F	G	EX	State	VP	P	F	G	EX
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	4	16	35	39	6	NJ	0	0	59	41	0
AZ	5	22	33	27	13	NM	2	13	39	34	12
AR	0	2	29	59	10	NY	0	11	37	44	8
CA	80	15	5	0	0	NC	4	17	28	44	7
CO	8	24	38	25	5	ND	22	26	25	21	6
CT	6	13	28	47	6	OH	13	21	26	35	5
DE	8	20	52	19	1	OK	2	8	36	46	8
FL	3	6	37	49	5	OR	20	27	36	16	1
GA	7	20	50	22	1	PA	14	18	43	19	6
ID	0	29	36	35	0	RI	0	40	30	30	0
IL	3	7	24	59	7	SC	3	16	42	37	2
IN	14	22	38	21	5	SD	2	7	28	51	12
IA	5	16	30	39	10	TN	14	30	34	20	2
KS	3	9	25	54	9	TX	12	23	37	24	4
KY	37	35	22	6	0	UT	8	15	32	40	5
LA	7	16	46	29	2	VT	0	25	56	19	0
ME	1	8	23	67	1	VA	8	19	43	28	2
MD	2	14	34	45	5	WA	26	34	32	8	0
MA	0	0	0	93	7	WV	14	38	33	14	1
MI	3	20	41	30	6	WI	8	19	37	33	3
MN	6	18	38	35	3	WY	5	10	41	38	6
MS	1	6	34	49	10						
MO	1	6	31	54	8	48 Sts	12	17	32	34	5
MT	10	20	41	24	5						
NE	2	9	26	54	9	Prev Wk	12	17	33	33	5
NV	32	45	20	3	0	Prev Yr	15	17	30	32	6
NH	12	16	33	33	6						

VP-Very Poor, P-Poor, F-Fair, G-Good, EX-Excellent.

National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2007 planted acres.

Crop Progress and Condition Survey and Estimating Procedures

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates are based on survey data collected each week from early April through the end of November. The non-probability crop progress and condition surveys include input from more than 5,000 reporters whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these reporters subjectively estimate progress of farmers' activities and progress of crops through various stages of development. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop conditions.

Most reporters complete their questionnaires on Friday or early Monday morning and submit them to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Field Offices in their States by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, or through a secured internet website. A small number of reports are completed on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Regardless of when questionnaires are completed, reporters are asked to report for the week ending on Sunday. For reports submitted prior to the Sunday reference date, a degree of uncertainty is introduced by projections for weekend changes in progress and condition. By the end of the 2001 season, nearly two-thirds of the data were being submitted through the internet website. As a result, about one-half of all data are submitted on Monday morning, significantly reducing projection uncertainty.

Reporters are sent written reporting instructions at the beginning of each season and are contacted periodically to ensure proper reporting. Terms and definitions of crop stages and condition categories used as reporting guidelines are available on the NASS website at: www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/National_Crop_Progress/terms_definitions.asp.

Estimating Procedures: Reported data are reviewed for reasonableness and consistency by comparing with data reported the previous week and data reported in surrounding counties for the current week. Each State Field Office summarizes the reported data to district and State levels, weighting each county's reported data by NASS county acreage estimates. Summarized indications are compared with previous week estimates, and progress items are compared with earlier stages of development and historical averages to ensure reasonableness. Weather events and reporter comments are also taken into consideration. State estimates are submitted to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) along with supporting comments, where they are compared with surrounding States and compiled into a National level summary by weighting each State by its acreage estimates.

Revision Policy: Progress and condition estimates in the *Crop Progress* report are released after 4:00 pm ET on the first business day of the week. These estimates are preliminary and subject to corrections or updates in the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* that is released after 12:00 pm ET on the second business day of the week. These estimates are subject to revision the following week.

Crop Progress and Condition tables expected next week:

- Corn- Harvested, Condition
- Cotton- Bolls Opening, Harvested, Condition
- Pasture and Range- Condition
- Peanuts- Harvested
- Sorghum- Mature, Harvested, Condition
- Soybeans- Harvested
- Sugarbeets- Harvested
- Sunflowers- Harvested
- Winter Wheat- Planted, Emerged, Condition

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